Forest Act

1161. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the purpose of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is to minimise the div rsion of forest land for non-forest purposes ;

(b) what is the number of proposals under Forest (Conservation) Act that are pending in respect of medium/minor irrigation projects in Gujarat;

(c) whether it is a fact that considerable period lapses before the necessary permission is granted by the Ministry ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that existing irrigation potential created through construction of reservoirs is not being fully utilised, due to dalay in according permission under the Act, for the off taking canals ; and

(e) whether Government have received any proposal from the States for delegation of any powers to them under the Act and the decision Government have taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 14 such proposals under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are pending with the Central Government.

(c) and (d) After the receipt of the proposal in the prescribed format alongwith all the material information required for the disposal of the case, a decision is taken on merits expenditiously by the Ministry.

(e) No such formal proposal has been received for delegation of powers.

National Land use and Wasteland Development Council

1162. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI N.E. BALARAM]:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a National Land Use and Wasteland Development Council to develop five million hectares of such land per year; and

(b) if so, when the scheme was launched and the achievement thereunder so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The National Land Use and Wastelands Development Council was established in May, 1985 with a view to placing proper emphasis on the twin objectives of proper land use and development of wastelands. The Council is the highest policy planning and coordinating agency for issues concerning the health and scientific management of the country's land resources. It oversees the work of the National Wastelands Development Board in the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the National Land Use and Conservation Board in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Under the 20 Point Programme, the National Wastelands Development Board is the nodal agency for coordinating and monitoring afforestation, tree planting and wastelands development activities in all the States and Union Territories. The targets for this purpose are fixed from year to year on the basis of allocation of funds. The targets and achievements during the Seventh Plan period are given below —

(Area in million hectares)

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Targets	1·45	1·71	1·80	2·00	1·68
Achievements	1·51	1·76	1·78	2·12	1·72

With effect from 1990-91, the targets and achievements are being worked out on two parameters-namely (a) "Seedlings Distribution" for planting on private lands and (b) "Area Coverage" of public lands, including forest lands. The target

and achievements for the year 1990-91 is as given below:—

	"Seedling distribution" (for planting on private lands) (in crore seedlings)	"Area" (public lands including forest lands) (in million hectares)
Target	250	0·55
Achievement	125·88	0·74

Pollution Control Norms

1163. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several fertiliser factories, both in the public and private sector are flouting pollution control norms;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to illegal gratification by these fertiliser factories, the officers of the concerned State Governments are not taking any action against them;

(d) whether the Central Government propose to take over the charge of Pollution Control from State Governments for ensuring its effective implementation; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) According to the reports from the State Pollution Control Boards, out of the total number of fertiliser units in the Country 17 units are not conforming to the prescribed standards as they have not installed adequate pollution control equipment. The units have initiated steps to provide the necessary control devices in a time-bound manner. The progress of work in this respect is being monitored by the respective State Pollution Control Boards and by the Central Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Pollution Control Norms

1164. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the effluent treatment plants run by fertiliser factories in Public and Private Sector are either not operating or are deliberately kept under repair to cut down the costs;

(b) what remedial steps the Government have taken so far to improve the situation particularly with regard to pollution being caused by the Paradip Phosphate Factory in Orissa, Fertilizer Plant in Goa, Phosphate Unit of the Public Sector PPCL near Patna ; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue some guidelines for the States' Pollution policing machinery and other local voluntary bodies and environmental action groups in this regard, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Some fertiliser units in the country are not conforming to the prescribed standards due to their not installing adequate pollution control devices. According to the reports received from the respective State Pollution Control Boards, Paradip Phosphate Factory in Orissa and the Fertiliser Plant in Goa are conforming to the prescribed standards. M/s. P.P.C.L. Phosphate unit, near Patna, has been directed by the Bihar State, Pollution Control Board to meet the prescribed standards, including construction of a Pucca Channel for the discharge of their effluent, since there is the problem of percolation of mines discharge into underground water and soil.

(c) Protection of the Environment is a major concern and has been built into all programmes, projects and policies taken up. This has to be a continuing process. As part of this process, we have to seek integration of environmental and economic aspects in development planning stress on the preventive aspects in pollution abatement, promotion of technological inputs for reducing industrial pollutants and reliance upon public co-operation in securing a clean environment. A time bound action plan for control of pollution from fertilizer units has been prepared in consultation with the State Governments.